

First Amendment Reflection

The first amendment states congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. This meaning the people have a right to speak, print/press, religious views, assembly, and petition the government freely. This gives the U.S people so many more rights. With this amendment the people can petition anything they disagree with and actually gives us a voice for once against the government. This relates to our class, by us being able to broadcast things that we believe or agree with. Rather just broadcasting everything the government says. This amendment protects Santa Teresa's rights to the media by what I said before it gives us the right to broadcast our own opinions and things we believe in. The broadcast is like our classes' yearbook, and even the news for the whole school. We give the school the "low down" on what's going on around campus and what's up-and-coming during the school year. A lot of the students at ST watch the broadcast everyday and have personally told me they love the way we do it. Without the first amendment we would be able to broadcast half of the things we do. We wouldn't be able to video tape some things and/or interview some people. With the people's consent and the first amendment were allowed to do those things. For example in one of the forum articles that people discussed, a father was listening to the radio with his son and a foul word was said. The father was so upset that he went to the FCC, they realized they needed to watch out for younger listeners and agreed to censor such things. I agree with this but the first amendment did give them the right to say what they want on the radio. I mean it's common courtesously to watch your language but the radio station did have the right to speak as they want to. Another example from the discussion but on the opposing side was the article Miller vs. California. In this case a man had mailed out sexually explicit material and was eventually found out to be one of the biggest mail-order company managers. This in fact was against the first amendment because it was sexually explicit material that was mailed, in the first amendment it says nothing about sexually explicit material being okay. Another example in the discussion that was agreeing with the first amendment is the Maxwell vs. Sheppard case. In this case, a man is being convicted of second-degree murder of his wife. But he says the media became too involved and influenced the decision. The judge agrees that he didn't obtain a fair trial. This issue here with the first amendment is that it gives the people so much power that it affects and persuades people's decisions on things. The media in this case became too involved and wrapped up in the defendant's personal life to not develop unnecessary beliefs about him. This being said

our broadcast could also influence many people's decisions about topics we cover, which we try to not let happen. And finally my last example is about The Hazelwood School District vs. Kuhlmeier. This case was about a principal who found that there were articles over teen pregnancy and divorce in the newspaper and he felt that some of the content may be too old for the younger students. Also the article didn't even respect the identities of the people involved. The principal requested that the article be removed and the court agreed that it be. This relates because if the principal/teacher disagrees with the article written he has the right to revoke the article. These all relate to things that could and possibly may happen at Santa Teresa and we now know what we can and can't do with the broadcast or newspaper to go against the first amendment.